

DEPARTMENT OF CELLULAR AND
DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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Dear Josh:

Thank for your letter of March 26. I have just returned from a meeting at l'Institut Pasteur in honor of Francois Jacob, at which some one pointed out that sex in bacteria was discovered in America, but it took the French to understand it what it meant!

I certainly do remember the 1946 Cold Spring Harbor Symposium and your proof of recombination in bacteria. I seem to recall that there were no slides for your talk and that you were very young! I had just returned to Colin Macleod's department at NYU only a few month's before the meeting after spending nearly 2 years in the Southwest Pacific and I seem to recall that either Harriet Taylor (Ephrussi) or Maclyn McCarty gave a paper on transformation of pneumococcus with DNA which inspired no discussion from the august body of participants. Finally, I met two Frenchmen for the first time, named Andre Lwoff and Jacques Monod who I invited to spend a few days at my country place in Scotland Conn. during which Andre agreed to save a place for me in his "grenier" at the Institut Pasteur in 1951-52 when I planned to take sabbatical and my children would be old enough to learn to speak French the easy way. At the time I thought I was very clever in my evaluation of these men, but by the time I arrived in Paris 4 years later, the new biologists from all over the world wanted to work there and I was very lucky indeed to have already made a "reservation".

I have always regarded the 1946 meeting as a turning point in the history of biology. For the first time the importance of bacterial genetics became generally recognized, although it was not until the Hershey-Chase experiment some 5 years later that the true significance of DNA as the genetic material was recognized.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Papp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*- A.M. Pappenheimer Jr.
Professor of Biology, *emeritus*